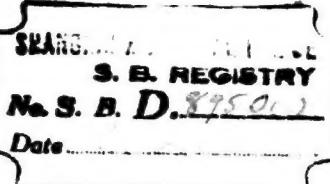


① 8950

**CONFIDENTIAL
FILE**



LETTER FROM HONGKONG POLICE ENQUIRING WHEREABOUTS OF ROBERT GEORGE
WITCHWILL, 30, BRITISH



CONFIDENTIAL
DRAWER

FORM 200 C/R
G. 5000-2-38

SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE.

File No.

Reference Slip from Headquarters.

To:	INSTRUCTIONS:
D. C. (Divns.)	For disposal
" (Crime)	Furnish data
" (S. B.)	Investigate and report
" (A. & T. R.)	Note and return
" (J.)	Report present status
" (C.)	Submit recommendation
" (Specials)	For further report
A. C. (Traffic)	For opinion
" (Sikhs)	Reply to writer direct
D. C. A. Divn.	As instructed
" B. "	See me in re:
" C. "	Inform Applicant
" D. "	Draft Reply
Gov. of Gaol	For necessary action
Personal Assistant	Attach file
Quartermaster	For information
Pay Office	Comment
Central Registrar	For verification
Musketry Officer	Note and File
C. C. R.	Attach to File
Legal Dept.	
Judicial Police	
Dir. Chinese Studies	
Depot	
Mounted Branch	

THIS SLIP MUST NOT BE DETACHED.

*D. C. 3/2/39
to see R. 3/2/39
Victor 3/2/39*

OFFICE OF COMMISSIONER OF POLICE
Initials: 8 FEB. 1039
SHANGHAI

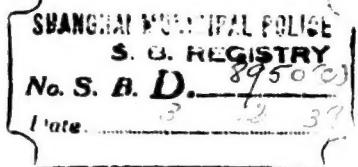
For File

Date: 3/2/39

Noted and
Returned

Date: 1/1

E.  R.



No.

NUMBER AND DATE SHOULD
BE QUOTED IN REFERENCE
TO THIS LETTER.

POLICE HEADQUARTERS,
HONG KONG.

27th. January 1939.

Sir,

I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of your letter No. S. B. D 8950 (C.) dated January the 13th. 1939, and to inform you that we are in receipt of the following information concerning Mr. Robert George Witchell.

Mr. Witchell left Hong Kong per S.S. "Empress of Asia" on 25.II.38, booked to Shanghai. He was accompanied by Mrs. Ursula Lloyd, a British Subject, with whom Witchell appears to have been on rather intimate terms. Mrs. Lloyd was booked through to Yokohama, and it appears that Witchell also continued the journey to Yokohama with her. Confirmation has been received here that both Witchell and Mrs. Lloyd sailed from Yokohama for Honolulu on 8.12.38. per S.S. "Chichibu Maru".

It is also known that Witchell is in possession of a valid British Passport and that he obtained a temporary visitor's visa for the U.S.A. on 25.II.38, the date of sailing.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

P. Commissioner of Police.

The Commissioner of Police,

Shanghai.

SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE.

S.I., Special Branch, ~~Section~~,

REPORT

Date, January 16, 1939.

Subject, Letter from Hongkong Police enquiring whereabouts of Robert
George Witchell, 30, British.

Made by, D.S.I. Logan. Forwarded by, C. Gould.

With reference to Special Branch report on the subject of above, a coded telegram was received from the Hongkong Police at 5 p.m. 14/1/39, which was decoded by Mr. Ford, Vice Consul, H.B.M. Consulate-General, and reads as follows:-

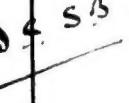
"With reference to my letter of December 29th and my telegram of January 11th Witchell known to have left Shanghai for Yokohama and Kobe

C.I.D. Police"

Continued enquiries have up to date failed to ascertain the name of the ship on which Witchell left Shanghai.



D. S. I.

Seen by,  S.B.


P.M. to D.C.  D.C. (Special Branch).
Vef/1

January 13. 39.

Acting Commissioner of Police,
Police Headquarters,
HONG KONG.

CONFIDENTIAL

Sir,

I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of your letter dated December 29, 1938 and your cablegram dated January 11, 1939 in regard to the whereabouts of Mr. Robert George Witchell and in reply forward herewith copy of a Police report on the enquiries made.

Any further information will be forwarded on receipt.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Sd. K. M. Bourne.

Commissioner of Police.

TP/

{ 1234/14
1800/14

With reference to my letter of
December 29th and my telegram of
January 11th WITCHELL
known to have left Shanghai
for Fukien and Kwee.

CTD Police



紙 報 來 報 電 線 水 部 通 交
TELEGRAPH OFFICE FOR CABLEGRAMS TEL 17419
MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS 17087
34 AVENUE EDWARD VII.
SHANGHAI.

Time recd.

14.JAN.39

Delivery No.

7546

CABLEGRAM

RECEIVED

Via Eastern

XXK44 SCDE HONGKONG 17 14 1234 ETAT BG -

LEGIRON SHANGHAI -

SHSKT DXFXA AZFIV TSAPF UPIHZ DKQXW OHYXX IKSUX

IRIMO ONNSF FYLPX SNIYH AZFIV IKUCO - CIDPOLICE *

Please produce this form in connection
with any enquiry respecting this telegram

電文內有如可疑須詢問此電到局便查詢

CONFIDENTIAL

S.I., Special Branch.

January 12, 1939.

Letter from Hongkong Police enquiring whereabouts of
Robert George Witchell, 30, British.

With reference to the attached letter, dated December 29, 1938, from the Acting Commissioner of Police, Hongkong, to the Commissioner of Police, Shanghai, enquiring the whereabouts of one Robert George Witchell, age 30, British, employed as a clerk in the Passport Office, Hongkong, who left Hongkong for Shanghai on November 25, 1938 in the s.s. "Empress of Asia" having been granted 12 days' casual leave, enquiries confirmed that Witchell arrived in Shanghai on November 27, 1938, having travelled from Hongkong first class in the s.s. "Empress of Asia". It was learned from the local office of the Canadian Pacific Steamship Co. that Witchell gave as his address, 392 Route Ferguson, Flat 4 (Tel.75836), which is the residence of his aunt. This lady upon being interviewed, stated that she had received a letter from Witchell's mother in Hongkong asking for information concerning his whereabouts but denied having seen or heard anything of him in Shanghai. She stated that she had reason to believe that he would avoid meeting her as she was usually severe with him on account of his escapades with women. She made the request that her name should not be mentioned in any report as she did not wish to be associated with her nephew in any way, especially as her husband is employed as a teacher in the S.M.C. Education Department.

Witchell's wife (registered at H.B.M. Consulate-General) who resides at Apt. 5, 377 Avenue du Roi Albert, when interviewed expressed surprise upon learning that her husband had come to Shanghai and stated that she was unable to give any information that would assist in tracing his whereabouts. She stated that she was living apart from him in consequence of his habit of consorting with other women. She was aware that he was heavily in debt in Hongkong, but had regularly received her monthly allowance of HK.\$150.00 per month up to the end of

October. The November and December, 1938 and January 1939 allowances have not been received. In this connection it is noteworthy that on November 23, 1938, Mrs. Witchell addressed an urgent telegram to her husband threatening to take legal proceedings against him should he fail to remit the overdue allowances. As he left Hongkong on November 25, 1938 it would appear that his departure may have had some connection with the receipt of the telegram mentioned. Besides the telegram, Mrs. Witchell addressed several pressing letters to her husband which, combined with the telegram and alleged debts, may have made him decide to abscond.

At 4.30 p.m. January 11, 1939, a coded telegram was received from the Hongkong Police, which was decoded by Mr. W.J. McLaughlin, Vice-Consul, H.B.M. Consulate-General, stating that Witchell is suspected of having misappropriated a number of blank Hongkong passports from stock.

It is reasonable to suppose therefore that Witchell contemplated absconding and, having access to the Hongkong blank passports would have experienced little difficulty in forging one or more, doubtless under an assumed name or names.

A photograph of Witchell was obtained from his wife and several copies made. These have been shown to the various hotel and boarding house managers as well as to shipping agents but up to date no useful information concerning Witchell has been obtained. Examination of the various shipping lists show that Witchell has not left Shanghai by ship under his own name but it is quite possible that he may have departed under an assumed name and using one of the misappropriated passports which, with his special knowledge acquired in course of his employment as passport clerk, he could with little difficulty forge.

Enquiries have been made at the various Consulates in Shanghai but the officials were unable to identify the photograph of Witchell. It is likely that if he applied for a visa to enter a

blanks misappropriated in Hongkong.

Witchell stated that she knew that her husband would not scruple to accept money from women and quoted an instance where he had accepted money from a woman believed to be the niece of a Swiss Consul in Manchukuo with whom he had cohabited in Hongkong. This lady, whose name is unknown, is stated to be an American citizen. In view of the fact that he is stated to have been heavily in debt it is strange that he should have travelled on the "Empress of Asia" first class instead of tourist class.

Enquiries continuing.

Certified true copy

H.C. Sandley
TP

M E M O.

P.A. to Comms

Suggest reply to
thinking on basis
of attached report.
Further information
can be forwarded
when obtained

Thos Robertson
D. C. Special Branch.

CONFIDENTIAL

SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE
File No. REGISTRE

J.C.Y.
S. 122-11498

SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE.

No. 1, Special Branch B. D. 1
Date

REPORT

Date, January 12, 1939

Subject... Letter from Hongkong Police enquiring whereabouts of Robert
George Mitchell, 30, British.

Made by... S.O.I. Logan

Forwarded by... C. [Signature]

With reference to the attached letter, dated December 29, 1938, from the Acting Commissioner of Police, Hongkong, to the Commissioner of Police, Shanghai, enquiring the whereabouts of one Robert George Mitchell, age 30, British, employed as a clerk in the Passport Office, Hongkong, who left Hongkong for Shanghai on November 25, 1938 in the s.s. "Empress of Asia" having been granted 12 days' casual leave, enquiries confirmed that Mitchell arrived in Shanghai on November 27, 1938, having travelled from Hongkong first class in the s.s. "Empress of Asia." It was learned from the local office of the Canadian Pacific Steamship Co. that Mitchell gave as his address, 392 Route Ferguson, Flat 4 (Tel. 75836), which is the residence of his aunt. This lady upon being interviewed, stated that she had received a letter from Mitchell's mother in Hongkong asking for information concerning his whereabouts but denied having seen or heard anything of him in Shanghai. She stated that she had reason to believe that he would avoid meeting her as she was usually severe with him on account of his escapades with women. She made the request that her name should not be mentioned in any report as she did not wish to be associated with her nephew in any way, especially as her husband is employed as a teacher in the S.M.C. Education Department.

Mitchell's wife (registered at H.B.M. Consulate-General) who resides at Apt. 5, 377 Avenue du Roi Albert, when interviewed expressed surprise upon learning that her husband had come to Shanghai and stated that she was unable

SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE.

File No.

REPORT

Station,
Date. 19

Subject.

Made by.

Forwarded by.

- 2 -

to give any information that would assist in tracing his whereabouts. She stated that she was living apart from him in consequence of his habit of consorting with other women. She was aware that he was heavily in debt in Hongkong, but had regularly received her monthly allowance of HK.\$150.00 per month up to the end of October. The November and December, 1938 and January, 1939 allowances have not been received. In this connection it is noteworthy that on November 23, 1938, Mrs. Witchell addressed an urgent telegram to her husband threatening to take legal proceedings against him should he fail to remit the overdue allowances. As he left Hongkong on November 25, 1938 it would appear that his departure may have had some connection with the receipt of the telegram mentioned. Besides the telegram, Mrs. Witchell addressed several pressing letters to her husband which, combined with the telegram and alleged debts, may have made him ~~him~~ decide to abscond.

At 4.30 p.m. January 11, 1939, a coded telegram was received from the Hongkong Police, which was decoded by Mr. W.J. McLaughlin, Vice-Consul, H.B.M. Consulate-General (copy of decoded transcript attached hereto) stating that Witchell is suspected of having misappropriated a number of blank Hongkong passports from stock.

It is reasonable to suppose therefore that Witchell contemplated absconding and, having access to the Hongkong blank passports, would have experienced little

SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE.

File No...

Station,

REPORT

Date

19

Subject

Made by

Forwarded by

- 3 -

difficulty in forging one or more, doubtless under an assumed name or names.

A photograph of Witchell was obtained from his wife and several copies made. These have been shown to the various hotel and board in house managers as well as to shipping agents but up to date no useful information concerning Witchell has been obtained. Examination of the various shipping lists show that Witchell has not left Shanghai by ship under his own name but it is quite possible that he may have departed under an assumed name and using one of the misappropriated passports which, with his special knowledge acquired in course of his employment as passport clerk, he could with little difficulty forge. Enquiries have been made at the various Consulates in Shanghai but the officials were unable to identify the photograph of Witchell. It is likely that if he applied for a visa to enter a foreign country he would do so under an assumed name. In this connection it would be possible to make definite enquiries at the various Consulates if the serial numbers of the passport blanks misappropriated in Hongkong could be obtained. Mrs. Witchell stated that she knew that her husband would not scruple to accept money from women and quoted an instance where he had accepted money from a woman believed to be the neice of a Swiss Consul in Manchukuo with whom he had cohabited in Hongkong. This lady, whose name is unknown, is stated to be an American citizen. In view of the fact that he is stated to have

SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE.

.....Station,

REPORT

Date.....19

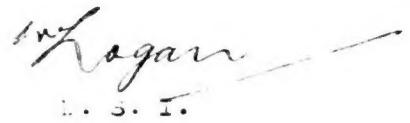
Subject.....

Made by.....

Forwarded by.....

- 4 -

been heavily in debt it is strange that he should have travelled on the "Empress of Asia" first class instead of tourist class. Inquiries continuing.


H. S. T.

D.C. (Special Branch)

with reference to my letter
December 29th, ~~which~~ which
suspected to have ~~been~~ misappropriated a number of
blank Hong Kong passports from
stock. These may still, ^{be} in his
(his) possession. Please assist
taking appropriate action
within your power.

W. J. McLAUGHLIN.
N. Y. Consul.

B. G. T. Code.

4³⁰ Do (-)
11/1/29. Do for ¹ month
and ¹ week ~~11/1/29~~

(E. E. 3) Dah Cheng Press



紙報來報電綫水部通交
TELEGRAPH OFFICE FOR CABLEGRAMS
MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS

34 AVENUE EDWARD VII
SHANGHAI.

SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL

G. B. REG.

DEL 17419
1708X

CABLEGRAM
RECEIVED

Time recd

11 JAN 39

Delivery No.

5494

XXK46 SCDE HONGKONG 31 11 1452 E7A7 PG =

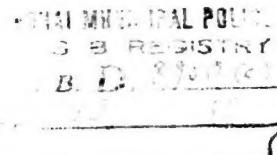
LEGIRON SHAI =

SHSKT DXFXA UP14Z DK9XW 01YXX PLAHY RP1PD K1SL4
ACEUJ CCALK W4CIPW LNSPA GDNIL PEFUS ABARY PXRPP
KEZSW HOPGY LXFUM APARY LTATI BNIEI PNSIX RELIV
AGUID SIETU SO1AR LXSOX = CIDPOLICE =

Please produce this form in connection
with any enquiry respecting this telegram

詢查便以局到電此携須問疑有如內文電

No. 023702X10/3554A/1928



NUMBER AND DATE SHOULD
BE QUOTED IN REFERENCE
TO THIS LETTER.

CGP/AHT

**POLICE HEADQUARTERS,
HONG KONG.**

29th December, 1938.

CONFIDENTIAL

Sir,

I have the honour to request your assistance in tracing Mr. Robert George WITCHELL, a British subject, 30 years of age, who is employed as a clerk in the Passport Office of this department. He left Hong Kong for Shanghai on the 25th November, 1938, in the S.S. "Empress of Asia" having been granted 12 days' casual leave. He has not yet returned to duty, and although he has already long over-stayed his leave I have received no word of explanation from him.

I understand that Mr. Witchell's wife, Mrs. M.K. Witchell, is living in Shanghai at No. 377 du Roi Albert, Appartement 5. It is possible that she may be able to give some information concerning her husband although I understand that they have recently not been on best of terms.

I shall be very grateful for any assistance you can give me in this matter.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,


Act. Commissioner of Police.

The Commissioner of Police,
Shanghai Municipal Council,
SHANGHAI.